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THE WAY OF CITIZENSHIP TRAINING

AUG 24 1937

A radio discussion among Morse Salisbury, Radio Service, H. R. Kylie, Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, and a group of CCC educational advisers, broadcast Wednesday, July 14, 1937, in the Department of Agriculture period, National Farm and Home Hour by NBC and 63 associated stations.

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SALISBURY:

Here we are in Washington. Thank you, Everett, and we're listening in imagination to a voice from the past, a familiar broadcast sound of six months ago.

TENNY:

Have a boat take relief tractor drivers to vicinity of Chestnut and 10th Streets. C C C drivers there have been on duty for 72 hours. By order of the mayor. That is all.

SALISBURY:

This announcement went out from Station W H A S, Louisville, Ky., during the tragic month of the Ohio River floods. Through these broadcasts, the newspapers and the screen all of us have heard of and seen portrayed the gallantry and heroism of the relief workers. Spearhead of this service in seven flood-stricken states was ten thousand CCC boys, trained to discipline and effective action. For drama and human interest in today's Farm and Home Hour we give you -- the boys themselves ---

TENNY:

In a small church, under the eerie light of oil lanterns refugees wait for the waters of the Ohio to quit their homes; and a handful of enrollees prepare to rest after a 24 hour stretch on a threatened levee. They are bruised, hungry, and wet - but their spirits are not dampened ---

WYNN:

I'm sore all over - I got some aches the doctors never heard of!

ROD:

It's not the aches - it's the emptiness that's gettin' me down. Think I'll order up some food. I'm gonna have beer, roast turkey, peas, mash ---

WYNN:

Shut up! (Softly) Make it beans - I personally remember that last bean yesterday evening.

ROD:

You know, some of that slumgullion the cooks put out and call hash wouldn't go so bad. If it'd come by I'd eat it - I think. Yeh!

GRIF:

(FADE IN) If you guys will shut off that moaning long enough I'll relay you some stomach cheers.

UMBARGER:

You mean jeers - that's all mine's used to.

(over)

WYNN:

I see you sneezing at a beefsteak, wise guy. Come on, Grif - whatcha got?

ROD:

Yeah, Houdini, you got some grub hit out?

GRIF:

The foreman just sent word we'd get a grub truck some time tonight. You guys sleep on that!

ALL:

(Murmur and exclaim)

WYNN:

Ah, pork chops, peas, gravy and potatoes! I'm going out and wait for that truck --- (FADE)

ROD:

If it's gold fish balls and java don't send it away! (Lowers voice and sighs) But Judas, I hope he's right. Could I mangle a pork chop. And then sleep on it (YAWNS) Boy, oh boy!

GRIF:

(low) You know Rod, life's kinda tough some times. Get that bunch of Kids over there.

ROD:

Uh-Huh.

GRIF:

It ain't right for them to be cold and hungry like that.

ROD:

Yeah. See that woman with the crying kid in her arms? She just told me it was so hungry it couldn't sleep. They ain't had a bite to eat in this place all day.

GRIF:

They were supposed to get some, but water on that lower road cut the Red Cross truck off.

ROD:

Wouldn't it be the sweet mercy of the Ohio for our truck to get off? Say -- that gives me an idea!

UMBARGER:

(Jeering) Not you - that's practically impossible!

YOUNG:

(From away) Hey fellows - outside - soups on - the truck's here and it's corn willie sandwiches and java!

ALL:

(Exclaim)

ROD:

Pipe down you mugs. Come over here Lightnin'! All right wise guys - here's my idea. We don't eat - but those women and kids do. Get it?

UMBARGER:

Huh! ... (pause) But -- Well, I can't get no emptier. That's a pretty good idea for you, Brilliant.

GRIF:

You're darn tootin' somebody get 'em over here.

YOUNG:

And after me waitin' for that truck.

ROD:

(From away) If you ladies and children will line up over here we'll see what we can do about feeding you.

EVELYN:

But how about you boys?

UMBARGER:

Aw, lady, we had a big dinner while we was workin' today and we ain't hungry. Honest we ain't.

EVELYN:

We women don't matter but if we could only have some food for the children - (Fade)

TENNY:

And those women and children did eat. The boys saw that everyone else got something to eat before they took anything themselves. And when that time came - well, there just wasn't any food left. Grif said later --- (Fade)

GRIF:

Best meal I ever didn't eat. Say, did you see that tike eat that corn willie sandwich and then go slap bang off to sleep?

ROD:

(YAWN) Yeah, and I'm going to follow him. Guess we'll get some grub in the morning, I hope, I hope, I hope.

TENNY:

And that was training - self training in self discipline and a sense of humanity. Here's another incident that occurred while evacuating the people from the towns along the Green River who had been cut off from safety by raging floods. Seven miles of waste water lay between the refugees and high land. Something had to be done --- QUICKLY ---

DEL:

Now what the heck are we going to do? There's about a billion of them and all we've got is this dinky rowboat. We'll never get them off in time.

DONLEY:

We'll just have to get as many as we can. The river's still risin' and that piece of mud they're on won't last long.

DEL:

Say, I gotta scheme, fellows. Remember that ferryboat we saw yesterday that nobody was usin'? It's big enough to get 'em all at one trip.

ATHEY:

Yeah, but it's miles up the river and I happen to know that it's run by a diesel motor.

DEL:

We can row up and get it can't we? I run a diesel tractor in camp, guess I can run that ferryboat motor. I'll give it a good try anyway.

DONLEY:

I always did want to be a steamboat captain - (SINGING) Sailing, Sailing over the bounding main. Heave ho - my hearties! (fade)

TENNY:

The boys rowed up to the abandoned ferryboat and the diesel tractor driver became a ferryboat engineer. Here's the comment made by one of the refugees --- (fade)

ROD:

That Kid who ran the motor said he'd never been on a ferryboat before in his life but he certainly made that diesel motor click. They got us all off too - good thing they did - that levee's under water now.

TENNY:

And now ladies and gentlemen - may we present a believe it or not. A story of strong men who were tempted but yielded not. Yea, verily, of men who slept in the midst of temptation. This crew of men had been evacuating the people from the towns of Rising Sun and Versailles. After rescuing hundreds of people and their effects, the tired enrollees were quartered for the night in a large factory building (FADE)

ROD:

Me for some shut-eye. That may be a concrete floor but I'll bet one of my five come pay day I'll sleep a dent in it.

TENNY:

I could sleep for a week - come any day. Anyway the top-kick won't be blowin' his bugle in my ear at five o'clock and I can sleep till seven like a real gent. Hey, lemme a blanket, will ya? I ain't got but one.

GRIF:

Say, Gang! I've been lookin' around this joint! Give a guess where we're sleeping to-night.

ROD:

Who cares, shuddup, will you. I'm sleepy.

GRIF:

Didja look what was packed up in those cases in the next room?

TENNY:

Pipe down, will you! --- Well, what was in them?

GRIF:

We're in a big distillery, you dope. You know -- maka da whisk.

ROD:

So what? You can't make a bed of it. Settle down.

GRIF:

(Alarmed) Say, ain't you fellows gonna join me in a cocktail.

ROD:

(Up and determined) We are not! And what's more you ain't either. You're going to sleep brother!

GRIF:

(Grumbling) You always was the darndest guy. Oh well, --- move over will you -- spare me a few inches of that concrete.

TENNY:

Later on one of the distillery officials was talking to a reporter about the boys. (Fade)

HATCH:

Do you know -- those CCC boys certainly are well disciplined. They're all right. For several nights during the worst of the flood they were quartered down in our distillery. All around them were valuable and unguarded supplies of liquors and not one drop was touched. Can you beat that for a story?

TENNY:

And moving rapidly from the distillery to the nursery we come to the point where truck driver Francis Walker of Co. 1588 found his first aid training mighty handy. It was when he started moving refugees from the Madison section --- (Fade)

SOUND (TRUCK DRIVING UP AND COMING TO A FULL STOP)

DONLEY:

One of you mugs pile out and see if there's anyone in that house we have to move.

SOUND (TRUCK DOOR OPENING AND SLAMMING)

DONLEY:

Hey Bill, gotta butt? I'm out.

ATHEY:

Here.

SOUND (MATCH FLARING)

DONLEY:

Boy! I needed a smoke, that's my first since this morning. (Away-Loud)
Anyone there Charlie?

MAYBERRY:

(Fade in) I'll say - and we're in for it. There's a woman up there in that house that just had a great big baby boy. What I want to know is how we're going to move her - no stretcher with us.

DONLEY:

That's easy. I moved a woman a few days ago who had a baby just after we got her to the refugee camp. We'll take a blanket, roll up the edges, put her inside and carry it by the rolls. Makes a swell stretcher.

ATHEY:

How about the baby.

DONLEY:

We'll bundle it up good and warm - that's about the best we can do, anyway. Let's go, you buzzards, that kid's gotta grow up and join the CCC's --- and work on flood relief. (Fade)

TENNY:

So it went, from dawn to dusk, and often thru the night. Backbreaking steady work and the immediate demands on energy and initiative of sudden emergency. The boys of the CCC were in there, in there all the time. The stories of their strength and their ingenuity and their courage are legion. One in particular we liked. Charlie Monroe, truck driver of Co. 1597 at Madison, Ind. saved his girl's life. He had been trucking sandbags to a levee which protected her home. Suddenly the foreman saw that their efforts had failed, his whistle shrilled and at the agreed signal the crew dropped their tools and scrambled for safety. All but Monroe. He scrambled the other way, toward the home where his girl lived. He got to her and got her away from the floating building. Hours later, after semi-conscious boy and girl had been pryed apart from a piece of drifting wreckage Monroe lay on an Emergency hospital cot - unconscious. He shows signs of life ---

EVELYN:

There, you're coming around fine now.

GRIF:

How is she, nurse? How is Helen? (Weak)

EVELYN:

She's coming along all right. Tomorrow I'll let you see her.

GRIF:

That's good. I've gotta sleep for a while now, nurse. My truck's in an awful mess and I have to get it out - but today's been - awful - hard -
(Trail voice out)

TENNY:

These brief reenactments of the emergency service of the CCC were prepared and produced by Educational Advisers of the Third Corps Area who are now in conference at College Park, Maryland, under the direction of Dr. T. G. Bennett. Now we'll turn over the program to Morse Salisbury.

SALISBURY:

Thank you, Mr. Tenny. I take it the point you Educational Advisers are trying to make is that there is a connection between the heroic ability of CCC personnel to meet emergency and their training in the CCC. But more important, this same training should make these men more useful citizens over the long pull of their three score years and ten. Here with us today is Mr. H. R. Kylie, of the Department of Agriculture, in charge of job instruction in camps working with U.S.D.A. units. Perhaps he would discuss the point.

KYLIE:

Yes, I'll be glad to give you my views.

SALISBURY:

And we'll be glad to have them. I suggest you start by describing the way the enrollees live and work in the CCC.

KYLIE:

Well, every CCC camp is a small community. The boys get a rounded experience in living with other people. Army officers supervise the camps. Superintendents of work programs and foremen supervise the daily work, just as plant and store managers will oversee the boys when they go into private employment.

SALISBURY:

How does the enrollee put in his leisure time?

KYLIE:

That depends on him. He has his choice among many activities. The enrollee may go in for sports, or he may choose to devote most of his leisure time to studies and self improvement. Or he might spend part of his time on hobbies such as dramatics, music, or writing.

SALISBURY:

Who directs the self-improvement activities?

KYLIE:

The camp educational adviser. He advises enrollees about choosing studies or hobbies and manages the classes. His first concern is to teach illiterate enrollees how to read and write. Then he helps enrollees complete their common school education, if they have not already done so. After that he arranges more advanced study. He also supervises all leisure-time activities.

SALISBURY:

Well that gives us a picture of how the formal educational system works. But it seems to me there's even more education in the enrollee's daily jobs.

KYLIE:

You're quite right. The most important training of enrollees comes from the work projects. More than 12,000 foremen, supervisors and technicians in the camps train the boys in systematic work methods. These boys may get a start toward learning more than a hundred different jobs and skills in their work. They may learn how to operate, repair and care for many types of machines.

SALISBURY:

Yes, we remember the diesel motor operator.

KYLIE:

And hundreds of hand tools besides.

SALISBURY:

Do you give theory as well as practice in this job instruction?

KYLIE:

Not much. The principal part of job training is given in the field while the boys are actually working. We allow no laboratory substitutes for actual job performance. Enrollees learn to operate machinery and equipment in operation. For teaching such theory as we do give and discussing work problems we assemble groups in the evenings.

SALISBURY:

Who instructs such groups?

KYLIE:

The foremen. They know their jobs and the boys. Their watchword is "simplicity". They use only the essentials of vocational training.

SALISBURY:

Do foremen have freedom in working out their training plans?

KYLIE:

Complete freedom as long as they comply with a few essentials. The job training program of each camp is "home grown". It's dear to all camp members. So we have 12,000 foremen doing efficient training.

SALISBURY:

I understand the CCC has a very favorable safety record. How do you accomplish this when you are continually breaking in boys who have never worked before?

KYLIE:

By teaching safety practices on the job and holding safety meetings in camp. We've cut our accident rate one-third since we began systematic safety training.

SALISBURY:

To sum it up, Mr. Kylie, it seems that by the time a boy puts in a year with the CCC, he can do more and better work. He is in better health, he is physically stronger. He is skillful with hand and brain, he is confident and he is a bit proud because he helped improve our natural resources for the use of his fellow citizens.

KYLIE:

Very neatly put. Let me just add that he is more likely to become a skilled industrial worker than is the boy of the same age and opportunity who doesn't go through the CCC experience. The boy who has the opportunity is fortunate. A recent survey of industrial employers in New England revealed that hundreds of them were hiring ex - CCC enrollees. The majority were enthusiastic about them.

SALISBURY:

A very good proof of the pudding. Thank you, Mr. Kylie, Mr. Tenny and Educational Advisers.

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